

FOSTER CARE SERVICES COMMITTEE

Thursday, November 8, 2012

8965 Balboa Avenue, Room 1A

12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Present: Nory Behana, Sandra Boelter, Patty Boles, Bernice Briggs, Lorelle Cardenas, Wendy Curiel, Ann Fox, Ernie Gomez, Andrea Jackson, Suzette Johnston, Robyn Lefkowitz, Dawn Lewis, Michele Manley, Violeta Mora, Susan Moreno, Kristin Newmann, Marty Robles, Arleth Rubio, Anita Secor, Elaine Shelby, Pam Sokol, Debbie Stolz, Barbara Wojtach

Minutes

I. Sandie Boelter called the meeting to order. All in attendance made introductions.

II. Approval of Agenda/Minutes:

Correct the October Minutes: Under San Diego Foster Parent Association, fifth bullet, delete “**but that is no longer required.**” A motion to approve the correction was made and carried.

III. Presentation: Individualized Education Plans (IEP) - Thomas S. Neilson, Esq.

Mr. Neilson provides free IEP evaluations once a month on Saturdays. He highlighted important points for caretakers to be aware of when dealing with IEPs:

- Schools must individualize the IEP to fit the child’s special needs.
- Foster parents play a critical role and are considered equal participants in the IEP process; they should ensure that all areas of the child’s needs are assessed.
- Assessments must be done every 3 years; however, parents/foster parents can request assessment before 3 by writing a letter directly to the school.
- Parents/foster parents may tape record the meeting; give school 24-hour notice of intent to record.
- Parents/foster parents are under no obligation to sign the IEP at the meeting; they have the right to take it home to review or to obtain counsel.
- Parents/foster parents do not have to sign the IEP if they are not in agreement.
- Parents/foster parents who agree with only portions of the IEP can sign the IEP but make notations on areas where they disagree prior to signing.

IV. Sunset Review - Foster Care Services Committee: Ann Fox

- The proposed Sunset Review was distributed.
- Reviewed changes pertaining to updated language and voting members.
- All changes were unanimously approved by the voting members.
- The Sunset Review will now be submitted to the Clerk of the Board.

V. Discussion:

San Diego Foster Parent Association / Pam Sokol

- The Association is busy distributing donations.
- Audrey Potter donated handmade quilts for distribution to foster families.
- The Association needs more room; please contact the Association if you have available storage space.
- Still receiving positive feedback about the Foster Family Picnic.

North County Foster Parent Association / Patty Boles

- Some foster parents are told they cannot adopt a child placed in their home although they are approved to adopt. In keeping with the Melding concept, the current foster home should be considered for adoption of children already in their home.
- Emergency shelter care (ESC):
 - Some foster parents are told they cannot receive Special Care Rate and ESC payment at the same time. Historically, these rates were given simultaneously.
 - ESC is needed for foster parents who take children with short notice in an emergency. ESC covers extra care/expense of the initial emergency placement.
 - Ann Fox advised that a committee is being formed to discuss the purpose/structure of ESC.
 - Volunteers for the committee are: Patty Boles, Lorelle Cardenas, Marty Robles, Elaine Shelby, Pam Sokol.

Child Welfare Services Placement Specialists – All

North Central – Bernice Briggs

- In need of homes for pregnant and parenting teens.
- Looking for foster parents to be trained to care for medically fragile children.

Central Region – Andrea Jackson

- Have fully combined Placement and Recruitment in Central/Mid-City.

Policy – Wendy Curiel

- Grandparents Raising Grandchildren booklets are available; these booklets provide an abundance of information including information about Probate Court and guardianship.

Polinsky Children's Center – Emergency Shelter Care - Kristin Newmann

- The current population is 37 children at Polinsky.
- Increase in teens and sibling groups at Polinsky.

San Diego County Office of Education - Robin Lefkowitz

- Independent City will be held at SDCOE on Saturday, Nov. 10.
- Students can contact their school counselor for SAT/ACT Fee Waivers for early college enrollment and financial aid.
- AB540 students are eligible for scholarships. Flyer distributed.
- UC system enrollment ends November 30, 2012.
- Central Region YMCA scholarships are available to students in the following zip codes: 92102, 92113, 92114, and 92139. Selected applicants will receive \$2,000 towards any college. Flyer distributed.
- JC Penney is giving free haircuts to children in grades K-6 every Sunday. Flyer distributed.

Child Health Disability Prevention – Anita Secor

- Please encourage caretakers to return phone calls from Public Health Nurses who are working to keep Health Education Passports up to date.

Developmental Screening & Enhancement Program – Dawn Lewis

- DSEP is assessing the Hawaii Early Learning Profile (HELP); may help define and refine plan for assisting young children.

Foster Care Education – Nory Behana

- New Training Schedule (Pink Flyer) was distributed.

Foster Home Licensing – Ann Fox

- Confidentiality: Foster parents need to be aware that foster children's information is confidential and it must be protected; do not leave confidential information in a vehicle or public place.
- The Foster Family Picnic was successful and great fun! Approximately 750 people attended.
- Foster families will be receiving letters with information regarding holiday toy drives.

VI. NEXT MEETING: Thursday, January 10, 2013: 8965 Balboa Avenue, Conference Room 1-A

- Please bring a dish to share at the New Years potluck.

V. ADJOURNMENT: 2:15 P.M.